

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CANBER 05624 170758Z
ACTION OES-09

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 SS-15 L-03 DOE-15 SOE-02
CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 ACDA-12 /077 W
-----055811 171418Z /44
R 170739Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3813

C O N F I D E N T I A L CANBERRA 5624

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MNUC, ENRG, TECH, AS
SUBJECT: QUERY OF US-AUSTRALIAN NUCLEAR SAFEGUARDS AGREEMENT

STATE FOR T, OES AND L/N; DOE FOR SIEVERING

1. ROY FERNANDEZ COLLARED EMBOFF IN DFA TODAY TO INQUIRE
WHETHER WE WERE READY TO GO AHEAD WITH EXCHANGE OF INTERIM
NOTES ON SAFEGUARES. WE SAID WE'D CHECK. PLS ADVISE WHERE
WE STAND ON THIS.

2. FERNANDEZ SAID THE GOA CABINET TOOK UP THE INTERNATIONAL
"FUEL TRUST" CONCEPT ON FRIDAY, AND AGREED IN PRINCIPLE
TO THE PROPOSALS OUTLINED BY NYE/NOSENXO/SIEVERING ET ALIA
IN CANBERRA LAST MONTH. CABINET AGREED TO ACTIVE AUSTRALIAN
PARTICIPATION IN DISCUSSIONS/NEGOTIATIONS ON THE FUEL TRUST
CONCEPT, BUT RESERVED AUSTRALIA'S COMMITMENT TO JOIN THE
TRUST FOR THE TIME BEING. THE GOA IS STILL CONCERNED ABOUT
FINDING A WAY TO ENSURE THAT IT WOULD HAVE SOME SORT OF
CONTROL OVER MATERIAL IT MIGHT CONTRIBUTE TO A "TRUST" IN
ORDER TO MEET ITS OWN PUBLICLY STATED POSITION OF
RESERVING A DECISION ON "REPROCESSING" AND ACCEPTANCE OF
THE NPT AS WELL AS "FULL-SCOPE SAFEGUARDS" BY ANY USER
OF AUSTRALIAN URANIUM. AUSTRALIAN ADHERENCE AND PARTIC-
IPATION EVENTUALLY WILL DEPEND UPON THE FINAL SHAPE
OF THE AGREEMENT, ITS COMPATIBILITY WITH AUSTRALIAN
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NON-PROLIFERATION POLICY, AND ITS COST.

3. CABINET ALSO HAS UNDER CONSIDERATION THE "TWO-LINE"
COMMITMENT TO MULTINATIONALITY OF ENRICHMENT/REPROCESSING
FACILITIES, BUT FERNANDEZ HOPES TO GET AGREEMENT TO THIS
IN THE NEAR FUTURE, AFTER WHICH THE GOA WILL SEEK A
SUTIALE OPPORTUNITY TO ENUNCIATE SAME.

4. FERNANDEZ CALLED DCM LATER THIS AFTERNOON TO NOTE THAT
THE CANADIAN DEPUTY HICOMER HAD ASKED HIM ABOUT AUSTRALIAN
REACTION TO THE FUEL TRUST, WHICH HE GAVE IN PRESUMABLY
POSITIVE TONES.
ALSTON

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 jul 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition History: n/a
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To: STATE
Type: TE
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